

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## "SAVAGE LIFE AND CUSTOM."

My attention has only just been called to a letter, signed Peter Filo Schulte, which was printed in the November number of *The Open Court*. As no less than five months have elapsed since the appearance of my *last* article, and the publication of that letter, I am justified in concluding that the latter is the well-considered attempt on the part of Mr. Schulte to deal with certain statements of mine which have excited his ire. It is for this reason that I myself regret that he did not take advantage of the opportunity afforded, and deal specifically with those points in which my "knowledge of the race problems is very piecemeal." I am quite prepared to do battle for every statement of fact that I have made, and to justify the conclusions that I have drawn from those facts.

Your correspondent's letter is too diffuse and discursive; and alludes to matters quite foreign to those discussed in "Savage Life and Custom." Besides its bad logic, he has the bad taste to castigate the late veteran Editor, not only for printing my articles, but charges him with inconsistency in so doing! In this country at least, the late Dr. Paul Carus was regarded as one of the most catholic in the cause of science, and his *Open Court* a court wherein the meanest suppliant might plead the cause of Truth. Would that many others were infused with the spirit of the late versatile Editor of *The Open Court*.

There is only one point that strikes me forcibly in your correspondent's letter—his assumption that the white man, whom he describes as "a fiend and traitor to his own race" is to displace the lower races in the interest of civilization. We have no scientific warrant that the white race will eventually do anything of the kind; what data we do possess seem to indicate that while the white man may succeed in exterminating the darker races, he will *not* become the heir to Naboth's vineyard. I can assure your correspondent that although I may not "seem to know enough about biology and the evolution of species," that there is biological evidence for the statement that I have just made. "The correct view of life" which he advances—that the value of life of savage races is not above that of the higher mammals—has no place in the law of nature, any more than it has in the ethics of the author of "Savage Life and Custom."

EDWARD LAWRENCE.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, ENGLAND.

[In justice to Mr. Schulte we wish to say that his letter on "Savage Life and Custom," which we printed in our November issue, was received late in July, 1919, editorial considerations compelling the delay. It goes without saying that in giving it publicity we strictly adhered to the policy of our late Editor, commented on in Mr. Lawrence's letter, of allowing "the meanest suppliant" to "plead the cause of truth"—naturally as he sees it—in *The Open Court*.—Ed.]